for that pontifical and militant attitude which many men of science were driven to adopt by the feeling that all must stand and fight together against the common herd, loyally supporting one another and concealing from a hostile public the weaker spots in the arms and armour of science. ^

I hold that the survival by tradition of this pontifical attitude among men of science is-not only needless, but has become a positive danger both to the public at large and to science itself. I hold that there is a crying need for greater frankness as to the defects of science and of scientists; and that this need is particularly urgent in the biological sciences. The public is wholly at our mercy; it cannot judge for itself. When, for example, it is told in a score of text-books that modern genetics has practically solved the problem of heredity, or that, in the light of recent research, the physical universe appears like a thought of some mathematician, what can the poor public do but believe ? Or believe, at least, that we are very great men to have made such discoveries ?

And among the public, as a portion of it of especial importance, I have in view the student population of our colleges. The most urgent need of such students seems to me to be a more sceptical **spirit,** sceptical not so much towards ' the truths ' of religion and morals, as towards ' the

truths ' *of* science. Only a spirit far more sceptical than the bdk of our students display can profit fully from the very elaborate opportunities now cast freely before our young people. But here again I must